



State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Elayn Hunt Correctional Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunt Correctional Center Hosts Annual Offender Resource Fair
Employers, Community Groups Invited to Attend

(Baton Rouge) The Louisiana Department of Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services encourages area employers and community resource agencies to participate in the 11th Annual Elayn Hunt Correctional Center Job & Community Resource Fair scheduled for **Thursday, February 28, 2008** from 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in St. Gabriel.

More than 250 skilled and semi-skilled offenders eligible for release within one week to six months will attend the fair. Most offenders will be releasing to communities in and around New Orleans, Slidell, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Alexandria. Prior to incarceration, many offenders already possessed skills and good work histories in construction, heavy equipment operations and oilfield work. Offenders also receive on-the-job skills training in prison jobs such as:

Automotive Repairer	Electrical/HVAC Helper	Library Clerk
Animal Caretaker	Forklift Operator	Painter
Building Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance	Paralegal
Clerical Assistant	Heavy Equipment	Plumber
Chemical Handler	Hospital Orderly	Roofer
Chemical Packager	Janitor	Shoe Repairer
Carpenter	Kitchen Worker	Tailor
Cook	Laundry Technician	Welder

Releasing offenders qualify for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program entitling employers to a 40 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 wages paid in the first year of employment. Employers may also qualify for an additional reimbursement of 50 percent of the employee's salary if Workforce Investment Act criteria are met. Federal bonding is also available.

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“I would encourage community participation in this event, particularly from businesses and business associations,” said DPS&C Secretary James M. LeBlanc. “Everyone needs to work and we can reduce crime and victimization by providing opportunities for qualified offenders who are ready to become taxpayers rather than continue to be tax burdens.”

The resource fair also gives offenders the opportunity to learn about community resources such as housing, faith-based programs and other support systems designed to help provide more stable living circumstances for the individual and a more dependable employee for the workforce.

Staff from the Education and Chaplaincy departments will provide assistance to employers and resource agency participants before, during and after the fair. Offenders will prepare job applications in advance for those employers needing detailed training and work history information. Lunch will be provided. Participants need only bring their display materials.

Participants must complete a registration form to obtain security clearance. The deadline to register and reserve a space at the Hunt Job and Resource Fair is February 20, 2008. Contact Trudy Haydel at (225) 319-4266 as soon as possible to register. Registration information can also be found on the Department’s website at www.doc.louisiana.gov.

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